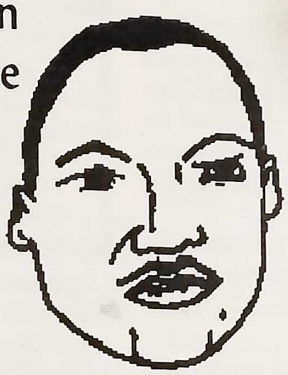
The RedBird Word

Vol. 36 February 2003 No. 6

DEFINING MYSELF, AS OPPOSED TO BEING DEFINED BY OTHERS, IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES I FACE.
-CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN

The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to. -Marian Wright Edelman

Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can.
-Arthur Ashe



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Anger, used, does not destroy. Hatred does.
-Audre Lorde

Louis Armstrong

Maya Angelou

Alton High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL. 62002

I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.
-Michael Jordan

Freedom is not given; it is won.
-A.Philip Randolph

Days of Our Lives is at Alton High School

Sarahjay Whitney, co-editor

For all you freshmen who haven't realized it yet, there is as much drama if not more in high school as there was in middle school. I remember in my eighth grade year how glad I was to be leaving middle school drama behind. Now as a senior, I can't wait until I don't have to deal with high school drama. If it's not one thing, it's another. A friend and I have a running joke that one day we're going to write soap operas based on our high school experiences and become multi-millionaires.

One of the juiciest gossip topics of high school drama is who is hooking up with whom. This topic becomes even more high pitched around Valentine's Day when most girls are frantically searching for a date on that special night.

Sadly, female expectations of receiving a locker full of roses, a box of Russel Stover Chocolates, and a grand finale of dinner on the river front are never effectively communicated to the guys. Guys are supposed to know precisely what to get their girlfriends for anniversaries, birthdays, and Valentine's Day without being told. And then girls wonder why they got a DVD of reruns from "The Simpsons."

How does a relationship work once the flowers have died, the candy eaten, and the river flooded? Acceptance is an important factor in a healthy relationship that will make a Valentine's Day romance last until spring.

When my boyfriend and I first started going out 14 months ago, I had a whole list of things I wanted to change about him, and his worn out pair of Vans tennis shoes was first priority. I hated those shoes. Unfortunately, he loved those shoes. So, when he found out how much I loathed them, he wore them everywhere-- even to last year's Valentine's Day Dance! His point: there was no way he was going to change anything about him for anyone, not even me. My point: he needed new shoes.

This power struggle between the two of us climaxed this past fall when I found out he'd bought a $10 pair of shoes from American Eagle on his way to Kansas City. (He needed them for a performance.) And then returned them on the way home just so he could still wear his Vans. As hard as it was for me to admit that he even had a point--let alone a good one--I threw out my list.

After this episode, I better understood "the rules of dating." They don't work. If I'm going to spend all my time trying to change my significant other, then he obviously isn't Mr. Right. So, why should I waste time on insignificant nothings, when I can invest more time into finding out what it was about him that made me like him so much in the first place.

RBW Roster

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Mission Statement of RBW

We strive to present the student body with information that is entertaining, diverse and professional.

Find the Hearts Contest

Successfully locate all the hearts in this issue and win a cool and neat prize to give your special someone. Contest begins 1st hour the day after the RBW is sold. Participants must show proof of counting the hearts by his or her newspaper.

***Voice your opinion of the RedBird Word by sending a letter to the co-editors in room 401 or send an e-mail at RedBird_Word@yahoo.com**

Tragedy in space: Columbia explodes

Natasha Whitehead

On Feb. 2, 2003, a tragedy occurred that no one will forget. The Columbia, which is the oldest of NASA's space shuttles, and first soared into orbit in 1981, disintegrating 39 miles over Texas in a meteoric streak that rained smoking debris over hundreds of miles of countryside. All seven astronauts aboard died, including Ilan Ramon Isreal's first man in space.

At approximately 9 a.m. Eastern time, Mission Control lost contact with Columbia. It was scheduled to land at the John F.Kennedy Space Center in Florida but instead disintegrated and scattered in several places over Texas.

Teams have now been dispatched in California and Arizona because reports of pieces of the shuttle have been found there as well. One of the engines have been found in Louisiana. This kind of destruction was expected when the Columbia crashed into the earth at 2.5 times the speed of sound or 1,900 mph.

NASA thinks that the foam on the fuel tank, which is a light-weight, polyurethane, spray material that goes on like shaving cream and hardens like Styrofoam, may be one of the main causes of the disintegration of the Columbia.

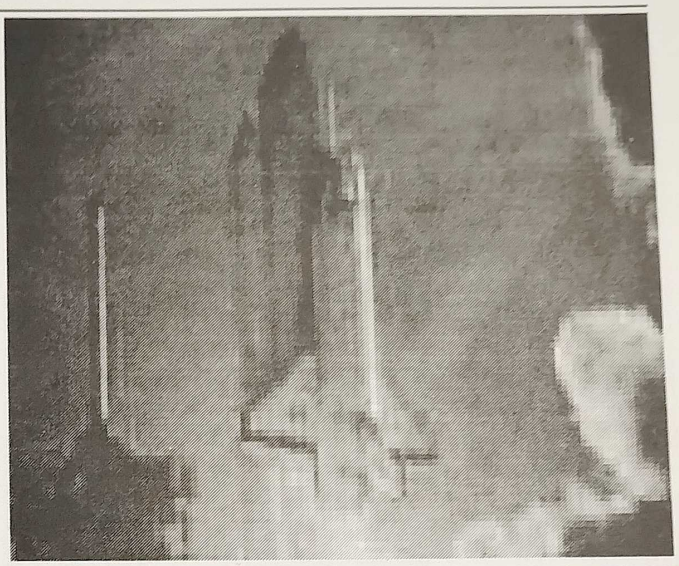
Given the speed at which the shuttle hurtled into takeoff, it can have a devastating effect. NASA also agrees that the black, silica glass fiber tiles which cover the bottom of the shuttle and are famously fragile, may also be the cause of the disaster. If the tiles so much as get bumped or nudged, it can cause cracks and dings.

One of the leading theories on how such a disaster occurred is that a 2.5 pound, 20 inch chunk of foam insulation broke off from the shuttles external fuel tank during lift-off and damaged the heat-protection tiles on the left wing. This set off a chain of events that killed the seven astronauts.

Since NASA stopped using freon in the foam for environmental reasons, the Columbia has sustained significant tile damage during a 1997 lift-off because of fly away foam, according to a report by NASA engineer Gregory Katnik.

Astronaut Mike Mullane has a hard time believing that the foam could cause such catastrophic damage. On the space shuttle Atlantis in 1988, the tip of one of the booster rockets broke off during launch and slammed into the belly of the shuttle and damaged a few hundred tiles. One came off entirely, and the Atlantis and its crew of five still returned safely home.

On February 4, 2003, President George W. Bush led a commemorative ceremony to help the grieving families and also to remember the heroic efforts of all seven astronauts in the last days of their lives.



Shuttle Columbia on lift off, photo by www.spacepics.com

Will this put an end to America's quest for exploration?

Kenny Ross, News Editor

The space shuttle Challenger broke up in 1986 resulting in the deaths of all aboard. Before that, in 1967, three astronauts of the Apollo 1 mission died in a fire in their cockpit on takeoff, not to mention the near fatal flight of Apollo 13.

On Feb. 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia carrying seven astronauts burst into flames on reentry to the Earth. This is not the first time tragedy has hit the space program nor will it be the last. Man's journey into the stars has been made on the sacrifices of others.

Every time death and catastrophe has hit the space program the question of the feasibility of manned space flights is brought up. Critics question whether space travel is worth the risks.

Congressman Dave Weldon of Florida believes nothing can stop man's surge to the black unknown "We are a nation of explorers, and we will continue to explore."

The words that best describe America's journey to the stars and brings justice to the tragedy that has befallen our nation come from Ronald Reagan, the president during the Challenger disaster "[The astronauts] slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God."

"The Crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth, yet we can pray that all are safely home" ~ President George W. Bush

Cell phones make bad drivers worse

Netscape News

Legislation seeks to make mobile telephone use safer with hands-free devices, but a new study shows that any kind of mobile phone used while driving impairs driving ability. New York is the only state that requires hands-free devices for cell phones. An overwhelming 30 states are contemplating passing this law.

"Sometimes you actually have to do the silly study that shows the obvious," says David Strayer, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Utah. Strayer's team has done a series of studies on using cell phones while driving. They set up a driving simulator using 20 volunteers . Some of the volunteers used cell phones, and some participants did not. The reaction time, driving style, and performance of the participants was monitored during the study.

In the March issue of *The Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied,* Strayer's group said that use of cell phones clearly distracted the drivers. In fact, the study showed that most of the people who participated would look at certain billboards, but would not remember the objects that appeared on the signs. The study also proved that people using any form of cell phone are four times more likely to get into a wreck.

Drivers did not seem to have any changes in driving styles while there was a passenger in the car, but the use of hands-free devices did not improve driving at all. With the way that some people drive, it is amazing to see how some people choose to talk on the phone, read a book, or put on makeup while behind the wheel.

The study noted the fact that people's reaction times were greatly decreased while on the phone. Many people are ready to invest in new cell phones and hands-free devices, but with the new legislation that may be passed talking and driving may become a thing of the past.

Facts, information, and quotes used in this article were obtained through the netscape news briefs.

Students are trained to be Life Savers

Chris Hesh and Courtney Armstead

From January 31 to February 2, 10 AHS students participated in a camp that was called Life Savers. The camp was held in Dubois, Il and was conducted to help students become more helpful when students are experiencing problems. The students who participated went through intense training which lasted close to 15 hours a day. The students from AHS were accompanied by students from other schools throughout the state.

Life Savers was developed not only to help students cope with problems, but also to look for signs of depression. The weekend was jam packed with many different workshops for different skills that the Life Savers needed to learn. One activity was on active listening techniques. This activity showed students how to become better listeners.

Other activities that were stressed at the camp were: education about dysfunctional youth, positive peer relationships, breaking communication barriers, group participation skills, sharing with and feeling concern with others, self-awareness, healthy self-esteem development, decision-making skills, coping skills, leadership skills, and knowing one's limits and when to refer to a professional. Some of the other exercises helped the participants express inner feelings while utilizing their newly acquired listening skills.

This program may help students throughout the state overcome problems, with the help of the newly trained Life Savers. If you are having any sort of problems here are the name of the Life Savers at AHS: Jessie Campbell, Leigh-Ellen Kichline, Jade Knight, Tricia Vassar, Courtney Armstead, Devin Banks, Greg Bock, Chris Hesh, Sade VanZandt, and Sarah Accord.

Many students experience problems in both school and home life; the "life savers" are trained to be there to help students and to be a friend. As we know, teen suicide is a big issue during high school, and the life saver students are trained to be there in any situation.

Alton school district contemplates changes

Zac West

The Alton school district met on Tuesday, Feb. 18, to discuss some ways that our district can save money. The school board proposed new plans to eliminate cross country, baseball, and softball from the district's middle schools, but the districts music programs will remain intact. The list of new cuts which includes the activities, also includes job cuts. The total estimated savings has now risen to nearly $3 million. The school board plans to make even more cuts before the next meeting scheduled for March 18.

In the 1970's our district was forced to cut middle school sports and some high school sports. The cut lasted for nearly 15 years. It is estimated that to keep all of the middle school athletics running, $90,000 would have to be spent to maintain supplies and to pay coaches.

The school board recognized the Rotary Student of the Month, Mike Baxter; the boys bowling team; and the all-state musicians.

There is only one Mr. Irresistible

Abbey Bates

When most people think of beauty pageants, they think of girls competing to find out who is the prettiest and most talented and looks the best in a swimming suit. AHS is changing that perception. They are holding a beauty pageant for guys.

The first annual Mr. Irresistible contest will be held on March 8, 2003 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

The contest is open to any junior or senior guy who is nominated by one of their peers. The nomination applications will be reviewed and 20 of the best will be picked to compete in the contest.

The guys will compete in three categories: sporting wear, formal wear and talent. Mr. Trapani has made it clear that sporting wear does not include swimming suits.

"I think the swimming suit competition should be allowed like in a girl's contest," said Ashley Cox, senior. Mr. Trapani, however, has the final say in whether it is or is not allowed.

The Student Council is sponsoring this event. Any questions can be directed to the Council or to the chair people: Seniors Courtney Schien, Leslie Murphy, April Logan, and Abbey Bates.

Swap 'til you drop

Courtney Schien, managing editor

The Student Council will host its very first Formal Dress Exchange . The Exchange will allow girls who do not wish to spend an insane amount of money on a dress at a department store the opportunity to purchase a previously owned (but still in excellent condition) dress for a more reasonable price. It will also give those with a closet full of unwanted dresses the chance to make some money.

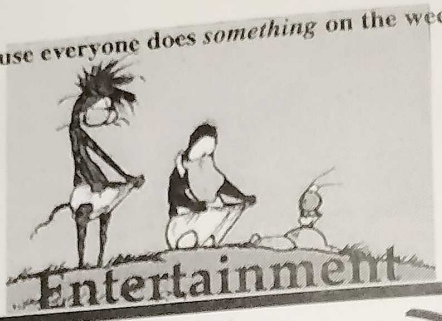
Kelli Knight, chair of the Formal Dress Exchange, explained, "I've sent fliers to 20 area high schools to provide a large selection with a lot of variety. Everyone I have talked to is very excited about the event."

The Formal Dress Exchange will be held March 15, in the AHS cafeteria from 11a.m.-3p.m. It costs $10 to reserve a table and display up to six dresses. Those who wish to reserve a table should contact Kelli Knight at 567-3242. Admission for those who wish to shop will be $2.

March Madness

March 3-No School	
March 4- Biology Club	
room 313	**7:30 a.m.**
Minority Excellence	
Library	**3:30 p.m.**
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
room 512	**7 p.m.**
March 5- National Honor Society	
Library	**7:30 a.m.**
Upward Bound	
room 114	**3 p.m.**
March 6- Amnesty International	
room 515	**3 p.m.**
March 8- Mr. Irresistible Pageant	
AHS Auditorium	**7 p.m.**
March 15- Formal Dress Exchange	
AHS Cafeteria	**11a.m.-3 p.m.**
March 11- Minority Excellence	
Library	**3:30 p.m.**
March 12- National Honor Society	
Library	**7:30 a.m.**
Upward Bound	
room 114	**3 p.m.**
March 14-No School	
March 15- Amnesty International	
room 515	**3 p.m.**
March 18- Minority Excellence	
Library	**3:30 p.m.**
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	
room 512	**7 p.m.**
March 19- National Honor Society	
Library	**7:30 a.m.**
Upward Bound	
room 114	**3 p.m.**
March 22- Sadie Hawkins Dance	
AHS Cafeteria	**8-11 p.m.**
March 25-Minority Excellence	
Library	**3:30 p.m.**
March 26-National Honor Society	
Library	**7:30 a.m.**
Upward Bound	
room 114	**3 p.m.**
March 27-29- J2 Chicago trip	

** This Calendar is subject to change without notice*



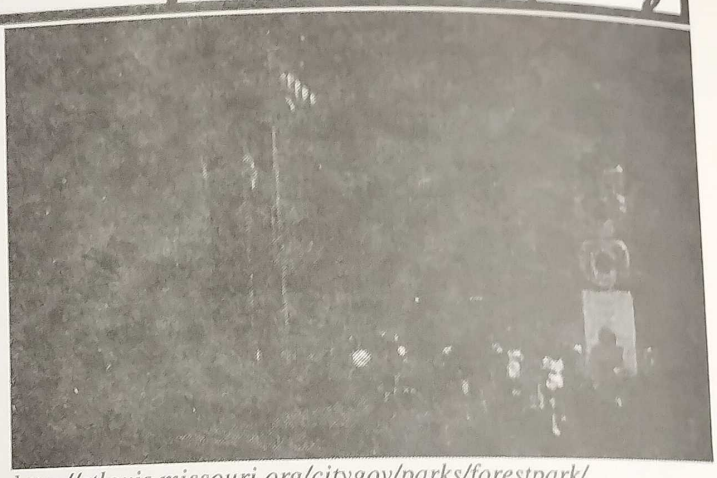
Three reasons to visit Forest Park this spring

Carl McMullen, entertainment editor

~Interact with beautiful birds~

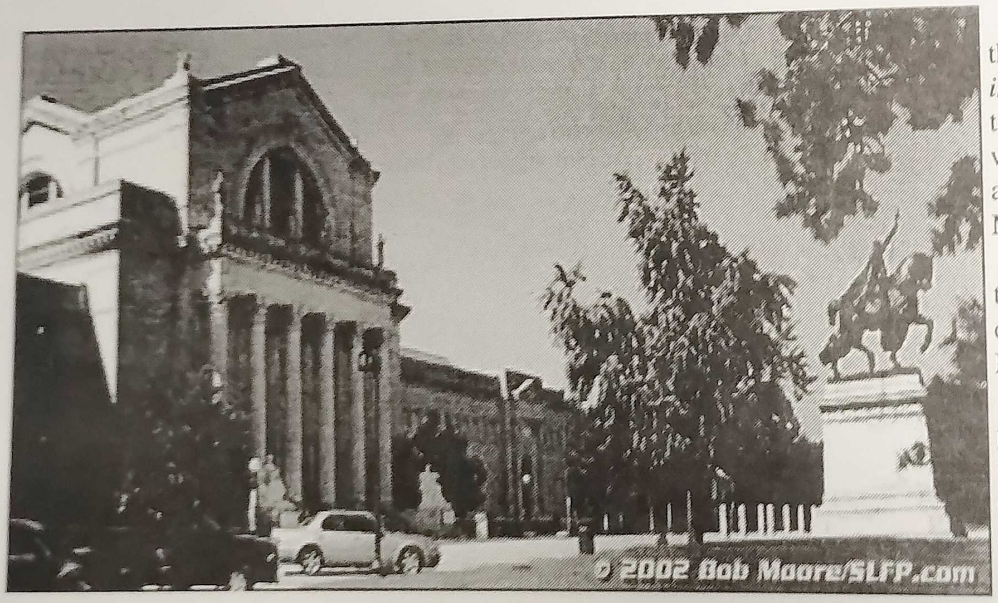
The Saint Louis Zoo will welcome new arrivals this spring with the completion of its $8 million new exhibit: Penguin & Puffin Coast. Zoo engineers are hard at work constructing two domed rockscapes, one featuring birds from the Northern Hemisphere and the other with birds from the Southern Hemisphere.

Over one hundred birds will reside in Penguin Bay. including king and rockhopper penguins. Puffin Bay will house about 40 horned and tufted puffins in a scenic landscape reminiscent of the rocky coastline of southern Alaska. The exhibit will be located near the grizzly bears and polar bears in the north section of the zoo. The penguins and puffins may not be out, depending on the weather and other circumstances.



http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestpark/

~Unearth priceless treasures~



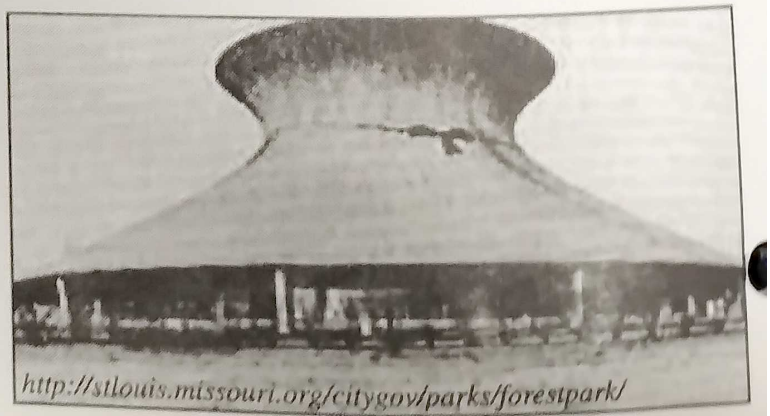
For jewelry lovers and history enthusiasts, the Art Museum offers *Jeweled Arts of India: in the Age of the Mughals*. The exhibit features a variety of over 300 jeweled intems like weapons and precious stones from the famed al-Sabah Collection in the Kuwait National Museum.

The Mughals talent and attention for detail shows in the pieces displayed from this collection assembled over the last 25 years. Many of the works date back to the 16th and 17th centuries, including a jeweled cameo pendant with a carved portrait of Shah Jahan, the famed architect of the Taj Mahal. The exhibit runs through April 20, and admission is $10 for adults and $8 for students. On Fridays, the exhibit is free to the public.

~Discover the deep sea unknown~

An underwater adventure awaits all at the Science Center Exploradome. *Extreme Deep: Mission to the Abyss* features a variety of displays including shipwrecks and thermal vents.

Visitors can view fish and other sea creatures like the tubeworm, a five-foot long creature with a bright red head. Visitors can also test their hand-eye coordination with a replica of Alvin, a sub used to pick up objects off the ocean floor. The exhibit combines the best of all sciences into a fun, educational journey under the sea for the entire family. Tickets are $3 for adults and $2 for youth.



http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestpark/

Oscar Nominations

Audrey Wildhagen

Chicago

Best Supporting Actor: John C. Reilly
Best Actress in a Leading Role: Renée Zellweger
Best Supporting Actress: Queen Latifah and Catherine Zeta-Jones
Best Adapted Screenplay: Screenplay by Bill Condon
Best Film Editing: WarMin Walsh
Achievement in Directing: Rob Marshall
Achievement in Art Direction: John Myhre
Achievment in Set Direction: Gord Sim
Achievement in Cinematography: Dion Beebe
Achievement in Costume Design: Colleen Atwood
Achievement in Sound: Michael Minkler, Dominick Tavella, and David Lee
Original Song: *"I Move On"* Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Gangs of New York

Achievement in Directing: Martin Scorsese
Achievement in Art Direction: Art direction: Dante Ferretti
Achievement in Cinematography: Michael Ballhaus
Achievement in Costume Design: Sandy Powell
Achievement in Sound: Tom Fleischman, Eugene Gearty and Ivan Sharrock
Best Film Editing: Thelma Schoonmaker
Best Actor in a Leading Role: Daniel Day-Lewis
Best Original Screenplay: Screenplay by Jay Cocks, Steve Zaillian and Kenneth Lonergan
Original Song: *"Hands That Built America"* Music and Lyrics by Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen

The Pianist

Achievement in Directing: Roman Polanski
Achivement in Cinematography: Pawel Edelman
Achievement in Costume Design: Anna Sheppard
Best Film Editing: Hervé de Luze
Best Adapted Screenplay: Screenplay by Ronald Harwood

The Hours

Achievement in Directing: Stephen Daldry
Achievement in Costume Design: Ann Roth
Best Film Editing: Peter Boyle
Best Original Score: Philip Glass
Best Supporting Actor: Ed Harris
Best Actress in a Leading Role: Nicole Kidman
Best Supporting Actress: Julianne Moore
Best Adapted Screenplay: Screenplay by David Hare

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

Achievement in Art Direction: Grant Major
Achievement in Sound: Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, Michael Hedges and Hammond Peek
Achievement in Sound Editing: Ethan Van der Ryn and Michael Hopkins
Best Visual Effects: Jim Rygiel, Joe Letteri, Randall William Cook and Alex Funke
Best FilmEditing: Michael Horton

Information credited to http://movies.yahoo.com

Evanescence jumps into the music scene

A.J. Yentimiglia

Do you know what its' like to hear a song on the radio and have it just stick in your head? You walk around all day and hum it to yourself and never quite figure out who the band is or even what some of the lyrics are. Well, if you have been listening to 105.7 The Point lately, there is a good chance that the song is "Bring Me to Life" by Evanescence. Their song has also been the theme to all the ads to the next super hero blockbuster, *Daredevil*.

The band's name, Evanescence, means to disappear like a puff of smoke. Unlike many other bands in this industry, they may be around for a while. The group is composed of lead singer Amy Lee, guitarists Ben Moody, and John LeCompt and drummer Rocky Gray. They seem to share the same basic blueprint of any other gothic band, singing about inner turmoil and suffering. They say their meaning is a positive one. Thanks to a little help from Paul McCoy of the band 12 Stones, they are taking the music industry by storm.

The group started in Little Rock, Arkansas when Amy Lee and now lead guitarist Ben Moody met. After working together for a while, the rest of the musicians fell into place, thanks to a little luck and persuasion. They jumped into the music scene with a seven minute Gothic piece entitled "Understanding." A little while later, their song "Bring Me to Life" was chosen to be the first single from the *Daredevil* soundtrack. The rest, as they say in the industry, is music history.

The band's first album "Fallen" is set to hit stores in early March backed by Wind-Up Records. It is reportedly on many critics' lists this year. If you are into a die hard rock band whos singer happens to have a heavenly voice, you should definitely check them out.

Chicago strikes gold

Amy Stabell, backpage editor

Murder, glamour and jealousy pulsate through Rob Marshall's newest musical *Chicago*. Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones play two battling actresses who have one thing in common- they're murderers.

Zellweger's character, Roxie Heart, is a wannabe vaudeville performer who uses the media's coverage of the killing of her lover to promote herself into stardom. Fellow cellmate and actress Velma Kelly (Zeta-Jones) doesn't like Heart's publicity and tries to stop it.

The costuming is fantastic; there was no cliché fringe dresses except where they were actually used: onstage. The work with scarves was theatrical as well.

Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renee Zelwiger have fantastic chemistry. One walks out of the movie feeling as if they just saw a show on broadway opening night.

How will you b

Double

February

Most Unique

Kristina Bemis
Jamie Heusinkveld
Brandy Robinson

Chris Childers
Michael Baxter
John Hardin

Best Personality

Corliss James
Maureen Blaine
Kelli Knight

Ben Laux
Michael Baxter
Jake Sweetman

Most Musical

Lauren Gebauer
Jessica Clark
Amber Evans

Vincent Piazza
Brandon Krepel
Derek Vaughan

Most Dramatic

Natalie Lewis
Amber Evans
Katie Miller

Brandon Krepel
Rickey Militello
Derek Vaughan

Most Likely to Skip

Ashley Janik
Brianna Manns
Laura McCain

Jonnie Linley
Josh Adams
Jason Plunk

Most Artistic

Jamie Heusinkveld
Virginia Middleton
Andrea Sharp

Bryan Young
Michael Baxter
Tommie Covington

Most Active

Courtney Schien
Kristina Bemis
Allison York

Carl McMullen
Michael Baxter
Todd Lockhart

Class Couple

Stacy Gillson
Sarah Cleaves
Kelli Knight

Jake Sweetman
Zac West
Alex McMullen

Most Shy

April Logan
Rebekah Carpenter
Amber McGowan

Tom Shimunek
Joe Hausman
Doug Klein

Class Mooch

Susan Scyoc
Beth Lawson
Katie Plunkett

Chris Henkhaus
Josh Adams
Joe Rodrick

Most Likely to Succeed

Courtney Schien
Maureen Blaine
Mary Dublo

Joe Hilgard
Reagan Joehl
Chris Lauschke

Most Talented

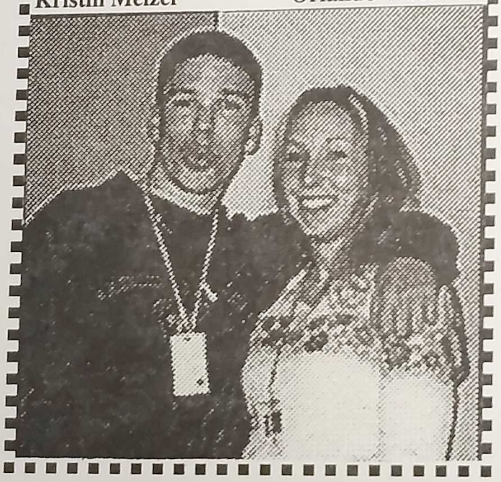
Kristina Bemis
Tricia Bock
Jessica Clark

Vincent Piazza
Mark Goins
Derek Vaughan

Class Flirt

Mary Dublo
Stephaine Dykeman
Kristin Melzer

Blake Schrumpf
Mark Goins
Orlando Woolfolk



Class Gossip

Philicia Helman
Susan Deppe
Natalie Lewis

Blake Schrumpf
Carl McMullen
Zac West

Most Likely to be a Movie Star

Kristin Hammond
Kristina Bemis
Kristin Melzer

Brandon Krepel
Anthony Gater
Cody Zippmann

Class Overachiever

Allison York
Lindsey Dubree
Erika Harris

Joe Hilgard
Carl McMullen
Aaron Veicht

Best Looking

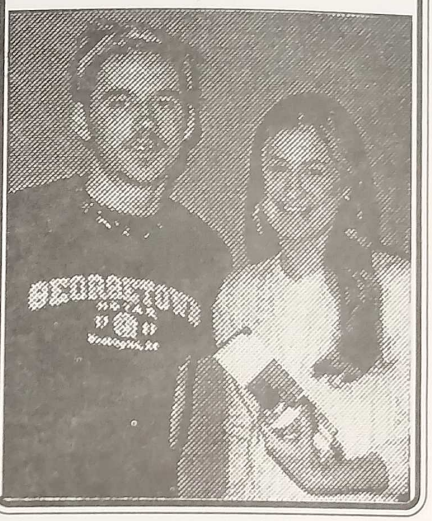
Kristin Hammond
Jody Cox
Stacy Gillson

Orlando Woolfolk
Nathan Barnard
Jake Sweetman

Best Hair

Kayla Nolte
Joanna Bratton
Mary Dublo

Kenny Ross
Todd Lockhart
Jake Sweetman



Class Hippy

Brandy Robinson
Jenna Gordon
Laura Hickerson

Patrick Reed
Math Cruthis
John Hardin

Most School Spirit

Susan Deppe
Danielle Petras
Allison York

Michael Baxter
Anthony Gater
Steven Stone

Best Dancer

Kristina Bemis
Jessie Clark
Kristin Melzer

Michael Baxter
Nathan Bernard
Todd Lockhart

Worst Dancer

Leslie Murphy
Consuela Barham
Carey Cappel

Derek Vaughan
Anthony Gater
Blake Schrumpf

Class Partier

Susan Deppe
Carry Hoelscher
Beth Lawson

Travis Bailey
Adam Bennett
Jeff Parker

Most Likely to be a Rock Star

Kristin Hammond
Kristina Bemis
Brandy Robinson

Chris Childers
John Hardin
Chris Koehne

be remembered?

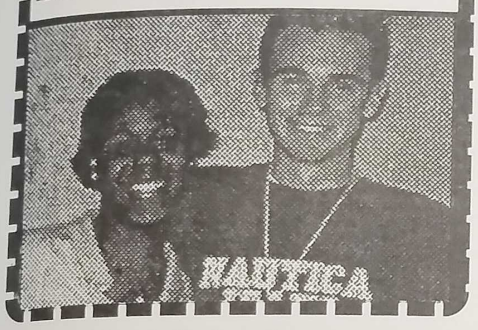
ble Truck

February

Best First Impression

Corliss James — Kristina Bemis — Houda Knowles

Jake Sweetman — Adam Feldeworth — Ben Laux



Most Energetic

Danielle Petras — Joceyln Kizzie — Leslie Murphy

Michael Baxter — Chris Childers — Blake Schrumpf

Prettiest Eyes

Andrea Sharp — Kelli Knight — Kimberly Wiltshire

Jake Sweetman — Grant Fessler — Jon Kribs

Best Body

Stacy Gillson — Joanna Bratton — Kayla Nolte

Ben Laux — Todd Lockhart — Cody Zippmann

Class Clown

Beth Lawson — Shawana Burgess — Susan Deppe

Chris Childers — Travis Bailey — Anthony Gater

Worst Parker

Amy Stabell — Jody Cox — Anna Roach

Jeff McDonald — Alex McMullen — Paul Rister

Most Likely to be Late

Tara Koehne — Beth Lawson — Laura McCain

Travis Bailey — Josh Adams — Mark Goins

Most Outspoken

Christina Sidwell — Kristina Bemis — Susan Deppe

Carl McMullen — Anthony Gater — Kenny Ross

Most Likely to be to Class on Time

Lindsey Dubree — Amber Raab — Allison York

Regan Joehl — Joe Hilgard — Aaron Veicht

Most Conceited

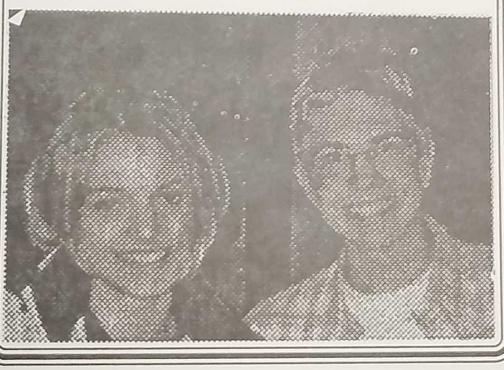
Jody Cox — Erin Hill — Allison York

Todd Lockhart — Carl McMullen — Kenny Ross

Class Brain

Lindsey Dubree — Joanna Bratton — Erika Harris

Joe Hilgard — Regan Joehl — John Waters



Class Brownnose

Natalie Lewis — Amy Stabell — Allison York

Alex McMullen — Drew Mitchell — Blake Schrumpf

Most Talkative

Susan Deppe — Philicia Holman — Brandi McRaven

Nathan Barnard — Travis Bailey — Steven Stone

Best Dressed

Jody Cox — Joanna Bratton — Corliss James

Drew Funkhauser — Mark Goins — Michael Hargis

Class Airhead

Amy Stabell — Monica Hornsey — Jana Horn

Scott Jaffry — Michael Lincoln — Rickey Militello

Class Jock

Joanna Bratton — Carey Cappel — Michelle McCrady

Ben Laux — Anthony Gater — Todd Lockhart

Best Smile

Corliss James — Jody Cox — Natalie Smith

Mark Goins — Chad Dorris — Drew Funkhouser

Best Laugh

Laura Fay — Carey Cappel — Jessica Crivello

John Waters — Joe Roderick — Stuart Somlar

Best Car

Katie Gray — Carrie Hoelscher — Natasha Whitehead

Wayne Zumwalt — Nathan Bernard — Chris Lauschke

Most Generous

Abbey Bates — Courtney Schien — Laura Woulfe

John Waters — Eland Siddle — C. J. Watt

Most Likely to become President

Courtney Schien — Carrie Holscher — Christina Sidwell

Kenny Ross — Joe Hilgard — Carl McMullen

Best Legs

Kelly Brooks — Stacy Gillson — Kelli Knight

Wayne Zumwalt — Michael Baxter — Jon Kribs

Worst Car

Maureen Blaine — Laura Chartrand — Amber Evans

Travis Bailey — Adam Bennett — Rickey Militello

Courtney Schien, managing editor and Sarahjay Whitney, co-editor

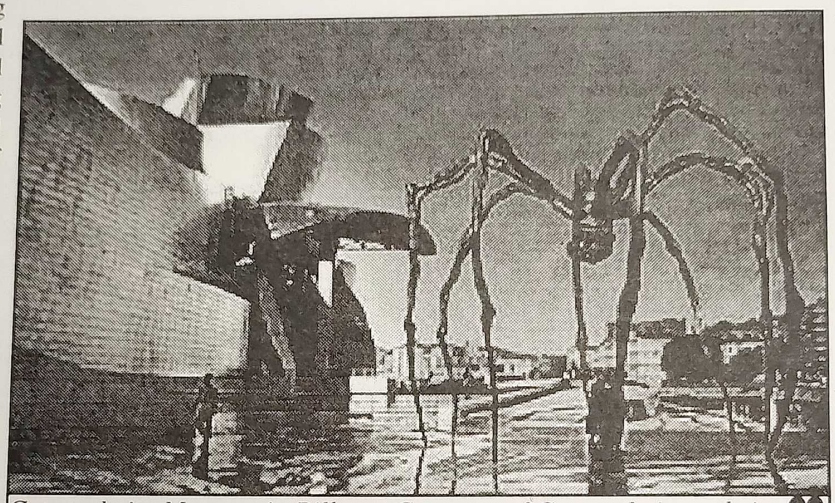
Language students meddle in foreign affairs

Jenn Heuting

AHS is providing a chance of a lifetime for several adventurous students. The Spanish, French and German departments are planning trips across the Atlantic for the summer of 2003.

Traveling by bus and staying in hotels, the Spanish students will tour Spain for ten days. They will visit several cities, including Madrid, Spain's capital, and Pamplona, home of the Running of the Bulls.

The students are ready and excited to learn more about the Spanish culture and special attractions. Junior Carl Allendorph commented, "I'm sure it will be a great experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. I'm excited in particular about going to the Guggenheim Museum." The Guggenheim Museum, seen in the James Bond movie *The World is Not Enough*, houses an extensive collection of modern art.



Guggenheim Museum in Bilboa. Courtesy of Guggenheim website.

French students will be exploring Northern France for fifteen days; they will stay in hotels for ten days and with French families for the remaining five days. Junior Ben Wunderlich said, "I'm really excited about visiting cities we have studied about in French class. I'm also happy that I'll get to stay with a family to find out more about the French way of life." Among the many exciting opportunities offered to the students is the chance to travel to the top of the 984 foot Eiffel Tower for a meal with a scenic view.

Several German students will make their way to Stuttgart, the capital of Baden Württemburg. Baden Württemburg, the third largest German state, is located in the hilly land of Southern Germany, and houses several attractions, such as the Castle of Heidelberg and the Mercedes-Benz Museum. While touring the area, the students will stay with Baden Württemburg families.

No one should forget about the German exchange students coming to Alton this spring. Several students from Baden Württemburg will spend two and a half weeks in Alton in late April through early May. They will stay with Alton families and attend the high school daily. The students will be taken on several field trips, including visits to the St. Louis Zoo, Gateway Arch and Science Center. After their stay in Alton, the German students will travel to Chicago.

She's a dancing queen, only seventeen. . .

Andrea Zimmermann, features editor

It is the American dream for most young girls. Every child surely remembers watching *The Nutcracker* and seeing Clara float ever so gracefully across the stage doing leaps and spins. Then, of course, comes the memory of imitating Clara through the aisles of the grocery store and in the parking lot. Well, for most girls, the thought of dancing on Broadway or at the Lincoln Center is simply a dream. For senior Kristina Bemis, she it has come one step closer to reality.

Bemis has been dancing since she was three years of age. Many people close to her would say she spends most of her time at the dance studio in Hazelwood, Studio CAC, where she takes lessons. Bemis agrees, "I probably spend 10 to 15 hours there every week." Besides the time she spends dancing, Bemis managed to achieve a 4.8 GPA last semester.

Next fall, Bemis will be packing up and heading to Los Angeles, California, for college. After being accepted at Loyola Marymont University, Bemis had to travel to L.A. to be interviewed by the dance department just to be given a chance to audition. Prospective dancers must have a certain ype of personality to be a part of Loyola's dance program. As it turns out, he director was so impressed by Bemis that she allowed her to audition by video rather than make another trip to L.A.

She was also accepted to New York University in New York City. "Since I was 14 years old, I have dreamed of going to NYU for dance, but when I visited Loyola I completely changed my mind. The people, the atmosphere and the campus was great," Bemis said. "It was hard to cancel my audition at NYU because I had wanted it for so long, but I knew I had made the right choice."

For now, Bemis will continue strutting her stuff in the Midwest. With her studio, she competes in several competitions, both regional and national, from St. Louis to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Now the ultimate question is put to the test. Is there life after dance for this prima ballerina? Yes, but she does plan to stay connected to the dancer's way of life. "In college, I plan on double majoring in dance and chiropractic medicine with an emphasis on physical therapy," Bemis said. "I hope to become a physical therapist that travels around the world with the dance companies."

Bemis understands her trade of choice. " Some people write to express themselves, and some sing. Dance is my way to escape."

Students embrace future career goals

Danielle Petras

As students are moving towards the end of their high school careers, they become pressured into deciding what to do with the rest of their lives. On January 31, 2003, many junior and senior students from Alton, Mississippi Valley, and East Alton-Wood River High School took advantage of the opportunity to experience for one day a career they plan to go into after finishing high school.

Junior Devin Muscarella said, "I want to become a physical therapist or a sports trainer. I got to go to Alton Memorial and meet with different trainers and therapists and basically follow them around to see what they do everyday. I was also able to meet with some of the patients and help them with their therapy."

Students had the opportunity to shadow many different health careers such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing in the Emergency Room, Obstetrics, Radiology, Food Services, and Registration.

Senior Lori Perkins said, "We got to hang out with different therapists and see what kind of things they dealt with everyday. We also were able to play on the machines, and I got to play balloon volleyball with one of the patients."

The students had the opportunity to experience a real day in the life of their future occupation. They were able to and see patients and observe what tools and machines are used in their specific profession.

Senior Allison York said, "I plan on becoming an orthopedic surgeon, and I was able to experience what it was like in the emergency room. I was able to talk to doctors and nurses and even see different patients in the ER. The doctor allowed me to see x-rays of a patient, which gave me a general idea of what I might be dealing with in the future."

Alton Memorial allows students in the area to shadow different professions in health careers.

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BLAST comes to AHS musicians

Tara Miller

On February 6, 2003 students of the music department had the opportunity to meet seven members of the nationally recognized music ensemble BLAST.

BLAST is a wild combination of drum corps, bands and color guards that come together to create a show based upon color. The ensemble takes each color and interprets it for the audience with instruments, vocals and kaleidoscopic movement.

Before taking the performance out on tour, the ensemble met almost everyday for five months straight. Often rehearsing twelve hours a day through heat, cold, dust and rain the group has managed to merge their talents of athleticism and music to create a thrilling performance.

BLAST is currently on an 18- month tour, performing their show eight times a week. The only day of the week there is not a show is Monday, known to the performers as "moving day." Along with being on tour with BLAST, seven of the performers are on another tour. This tour gives the opportunity to talk to young musicians about what they do, and it also provides inspiration to young people.

"They are great musicians and I enjoyed hearing about what they go through. Although, I wish they would have played more," said senior Shaun Young.

Cast members from BLAST came to AHS on February 6 to do a short presentation for Marching 100 members. Matt Banks (farthest on right) is a graduate of AHS. photo by Drew Mitchell

Pizza Hut busted in cheese-smuggling ring

Joe Hilgard, humor editor and playboy millionaire

Nationwide food chain Pizza Hut has been convicted of felony cheese-smuggling in a huge, excellently coordinated bust by the FBI.

Everybody in the upper echelons of Pizza Hut management was declared to be "some really sick puppies," and then sentenced to death by "the most horrible way we can think of, but more horrible, and then a thousand times worse," by the Honorable Judge Frederick Vondswegger.

As a result of Pizza Hut's crimes, thousands of Americans lie moaning on their couches, afflicted with hypertension, gallstones, gross obesity, and death.

"My friend Walter tried eating one of those things. We could actually hear his rear end inflating. By the time he was done with the pizza, he looked like some bloated albino manatee," commented one bereaved victim.

For years, Pizza Hut had been secretly shipping out untold millions of tons of cheese not only on top of their pizzas, but also inside the pizzas.

When asked how such a thing was possible, Pizza Hut Mad Scientist and Head of Research and Development Norstein Vunterheimer responded cryptically.

"Ja, ja, der stüft-crust pizza vas ze quantum leap forzard in pizza creyation and ze störing of cheese in said pizza, und ju Amériçan vüntærhøsenshvitzel vill never guez vere ve hid ze cheese," Vunterheimer said, "How I could haf zought of zomething zo brilliant is yet anözer reminder of my genius." Language experts are frantically trying to decipher his incomprehensible, umlaut-laden statement.

"It lives! I have created life! I am a god! I am God!" he continued to scream as lightning bolts cracked dramatically in the background.

A highly illegal "Stuffed Crust Gold" pizza, with pepperoni, cheese, a cheese-fried crust, and cheese inside the crust as noted by the circle.

Considering close examination of stuffed-crust pizzas, it seems as though Pizza Hut employees were able to willingly and knowingly inject pounds of molten cheese into the outer rings of pizza crusts. Other variations on the stuffed-crust pizza boasted two crusts with cheese in between, not unlike a false-bottomed chest.

When asked why he committed such bizarre and heinous acts of cheese, Pizza Hut Executive Officer J. Edward Crenwin started panting heavily and drooling.

"Cheese... cheese... cheese... I love cheese so much, sleeping on my cheese bed with the cheese sheets pulled up over my head, petting my cheese dog named Cheese, brushing my teeth with cheese..." he said between his rasping breaths.

Crenwin is currently in maximum-security prison pending the death penalty as soon as the Supreme Court can think of a method of execution awful enough.

"It's tritely ironic, but how about we "stuff" his veins with cheese?" asked Judge Scalia. The other judges booed him and rained paper balls at him.

Television to destroy all that is just, pure

Joe Hilgard, humor editor and playboy millionaire

At high noon yesterday, television issued a formal declaration of war against morality, good culture, courtesy, leisure, and literacy.

"Good afternoon, America!" greeted the prolific shouting box. "I'm gonna devour your soul!"

The White House was to immediately convene to plan the national defense, but ""Friends" was on," according to President Bush.

Under the military's warning, a sluggish America reached for the remote control, only to collapse with apathy.

"Doritos..." America moaned, popping open another Diet Pepsi. America then proceeded to lie still through a juicemaker infomercial and a TV showing of *The Phantom Menace.*

Television executives eager to profit from the invasion immediately canceled any show with redeeming cultural value, such as "Cowboy Bebop", "Mystery Science Theater 3000", and "Hardball" to free up airtime for the new line of TV shows, which they promise will be "total crap." They then began the new anti-literacy ad campaign.

"When you read a book, you're alone and no one likes you. Buy a gas-guzzling SUV and get drunk right now!" one popular ad screeches as a carousel of half-naked people drive a fast car down a freeway. "Your life is pitiful! Wouldn't you rather focus on a TV actor's life?"

People are rushing to embrace the new trend of unthinking consumerism.

"I figured I could only be a good mother by buying a bigger minivan, so I did. Good thing I don't have to spend time with my kids," said Lucy Dargins, Alton native and mother of two.

"Yeah, so my grades aren't that good, but only dweebs get good grades anyway. The important thing is that I have Yu-Gi-Oh cards and an air gun," said Andy Dargins, her son, "even if I do have to beat other kids up for them."

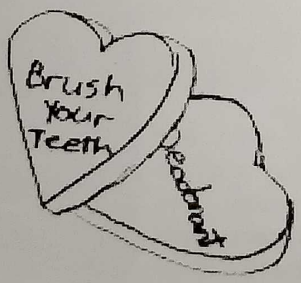
Avoid these Valentine blunders

Jeff McDonald

Nothing puts a damper on the holidays like giving your significant other a gift, only to see the disappointment on her face when she opens it and tells you how badly you screwed up. We at *The RedBird Word* feel that we have a duty to our tens of . . . well, tens of loyal readers to exhaustively research the gifts given this Valentine's Day. We have compiled a list of the season's least popular gifts, so next year you romantics out there won't fall into these common passion pitfalls.

Put tears of joy in her eyes with a gift of **Self-Defense Pepper Spray.** Give your sweetheart a surprise treat for those parking garage Romeos. This romance-in-a-can delivers your message of love like a kick in the crotch. The holiday edition combines a throat-closing burn with a refreshing flower scent. Note: tears of joy may be followed by redness and swelling.

If her breath is as strong as your love, give her a pack of **Deodorizing Sweethearts Candy**. These little hearts still have the chalk taste you know and love, but now absorb odors and moisture. Don't worry about getting that white powder all over your hands and clothes - now you're promoting personal hygiene. Use them in the fridge, in your sneakers, or drop a subtle hint about your beau's B.O.

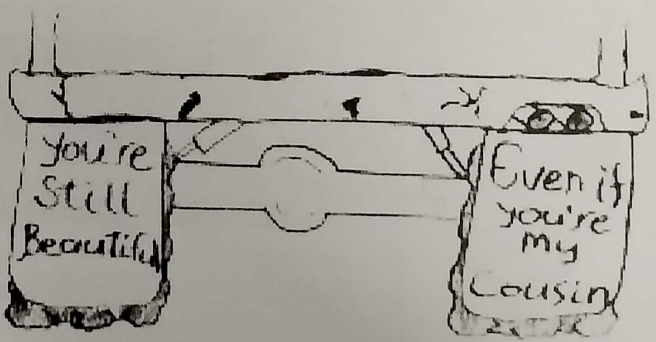


A good box of chocolates can cost upwards of six dollars! Tell your valentine you care, but not that much, with **Mix & Match Holiday Chocolates**. This lovely box is filled with leftover candy from last year's Christmas, Halloween, Easter, Casimir Pulaski Day, etc. Months without refrigeration have made it a gooey mess that will surely melt her heart.

Don't say it with flowers. Say it with scar tissue. Use the **Do-It-Yourself Tattoo Kit** to create a memento of your love that will last through the years, or until she finds someone better and you have to get it removed. Write her name, or show your dedication by drawing her portrait. Remember, you can't spell affection without infection.

For a long time the staple of lonely old women with too many cats, cutesy ceramic figurines have gone mainstream with the **Precious Moments - Pro Wrestling Collection**. Each quality, hand-painted piece features one of your favorite professional wrestlers and is engraved with his favorite catch phrase. Woo your honey with these tiny titans of the turnbuckle. I pity the fool who doesn't get the whole ****ing set, chump!

Tell your special gal that you've got more love for her than she's got teeth with **Hallmark Mud Flaps**. With their trademark syrupy sentiments, they dress up any truck. Mounting them on your trailer will make a mobile home really feel like home. Or have them customized, so you can drag your darling's name through the mud.



Redbird Rampage

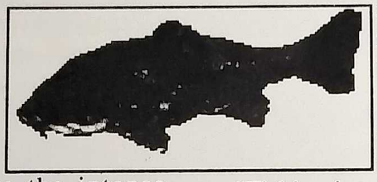
RBW February

Early to bed, early to rise, fish all day, make up lies

Blake Schrumpf, sports editor

Many people know that fishing takes a certain degree of determination and patience. For many, this is what makes this popular pastime special. Fishing is a time when fathers can relax and spend valuable time with their kids.

The Riverbend area allows people of every age to experience nature and learn first hand what it holds.



Sport fishing has grown rapidly in this area and has attracted the attention of many local residents. Different kinds of fish are favored in this area. Some fisherman love the intense struggle of reeling in large mouth bass or crappie. Others prefer fishing on the bottom for catfish. Another very tasty and fun to catch fish is the bluegill.

Certain bait is preferred in this area, too. A favorite for catfish is Sony's Blood Stink Bait.

Used in current, this peanut buttery bait is very promising. Some of the biggest catfish are pulled in from our own Mighty Mississippi with this bait..

Another very important part of fishing is the lure. Different lures are good for different climates and environments. Some fish bite little jigs and others go for huge spinner baits. The color of the lure usually has a big effect on the amount of fish you will catch.

"The best way to figure out what jig to use is to try them all," said Eric Peuterbaugh, a local angler.

"Fishing is very challenging because it is hard to get big fish with light tackle. It is an experience everyone should have," said retired teacher, Mr. Wolke.

Many different methods for fishing enthusiasts are used in this area. Some people prefer the original pole fishing. Others prefer jug fishing or trout lining.

Both Birds are ready for spring swinging

Steve Stone

It's February. To a lot of people, it means colder days, less than four months of school, Valentine's Day and spring around the corner. To others, it means BASEBALL and spring training.

Major league pitchers and catchers reported for spring training on Thursday, February 13, with all position players reporting one weeks later on Thursday, February 20, 2003.

The Cardinals have added many veteran players, such as: Ex-Cub catcher Joe Girardi, pitchers Al Levine, Brett Tomko, Joey Hamilton, Chris Carpenter, and Dustin Hermanson, who will rejoin the Cardinals.

The Cardinals will open spring training at Roger Dean Stadium against the New York Mets on February 28, then host back-to-back home games against the Atlanta Braves.

The Cardinals will open the season at home on March 31, at 3:10 p.m. against the Milwaukee Brewers. They plan to continue their season for another National League Central Division Championship, hopefully followed by a National League Championship and then the elusive World Series Championship.

Alton High's baseball team will be holding varsity tryouts on March 3-5. The players will start the season on March 24 at Riverview Gardens in the North County Baseball Tournament. If you are interested in trying out, see Coach Harper or Coach Bellm in the Athletic Office above the boys' gym in the Main.

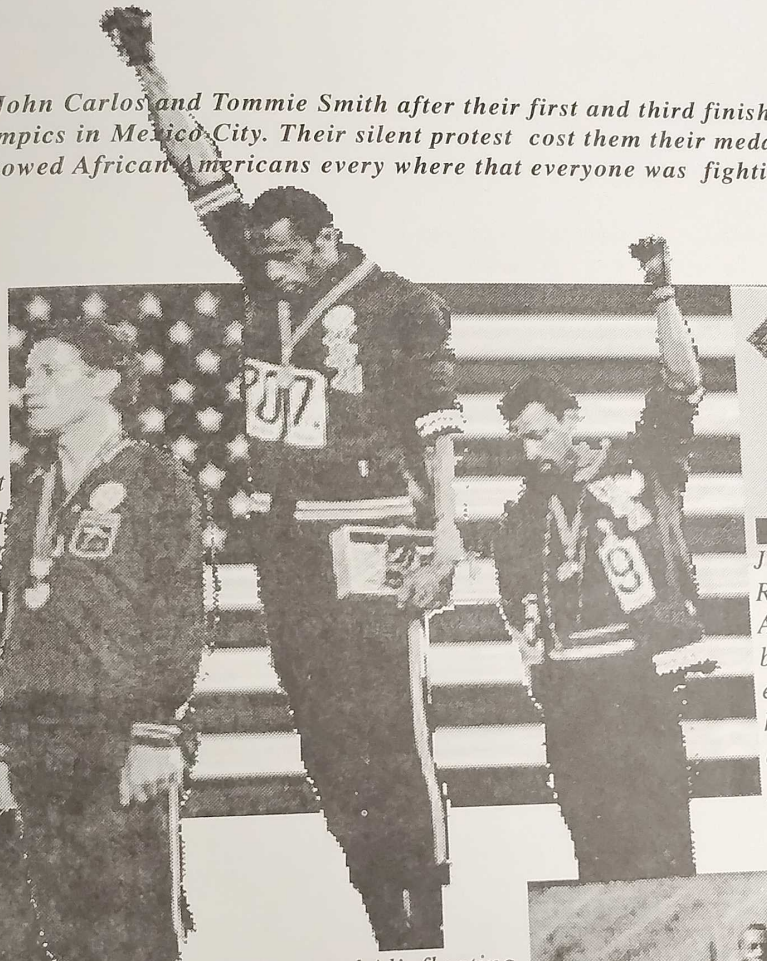
Congratulations to the AHS Bowling Team for reaching the State Bowling Tournament and to Jason Krankel and Ashley Cox, who both placed 4th in State.

Players of the past that made the future

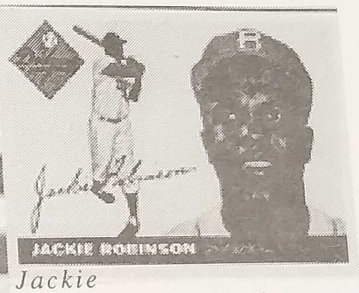
Anthony Gater, senior editor

Sports are a universal language that everyone can speak. Without people like these, sports would not hold a definition like this. These athletes endured true racism while being the best in their sports. These great athletes' accomplishments should never be forgotten. Athletes of the past open the door for the present day superstars. There would have never been the Michael Jordan, Barry Bonds, Emmit Smiths and Tiger Woods, without these stupendous athletes. Where would young athletes be without these hard working people? The world would probably still be segregated.

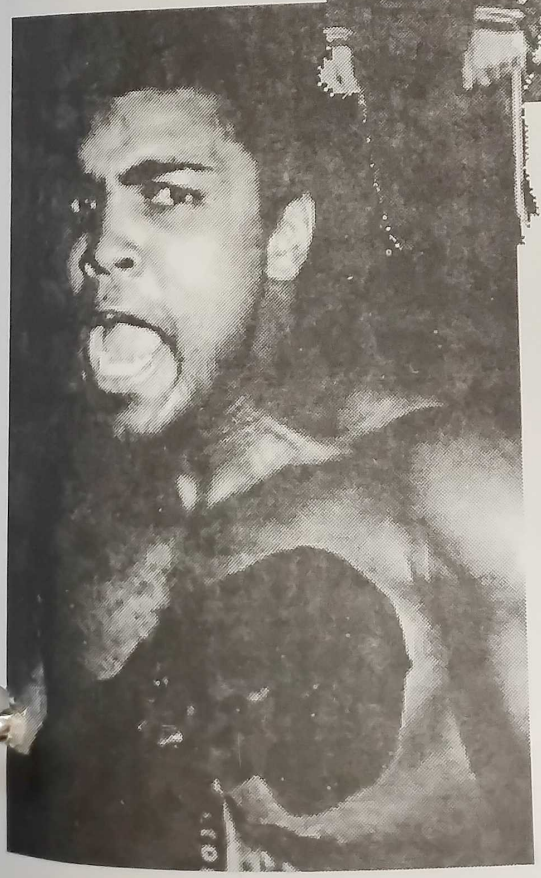
Alice Coachman was the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal. Her contributions paved the way for stars like Jackie Joyner Kersey, Florence Joyner and Marion Jones.



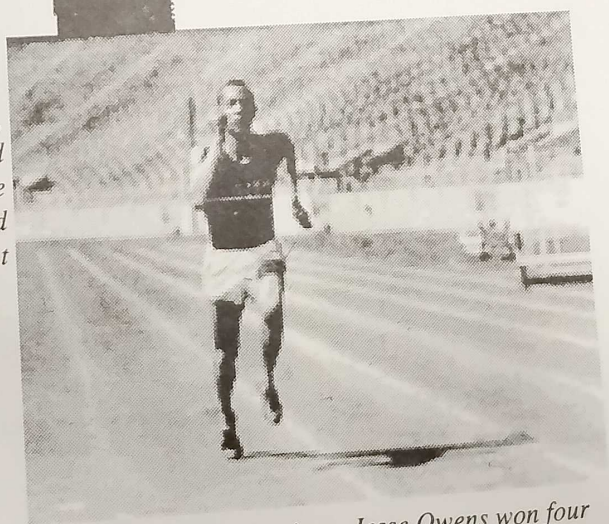
John Carlos and Tommie Smith after their first and third finish at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Their silent protest cost them their medals. This protest showed African Americans every where that everyone was fighting for justice.



Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play major league baseball. While playing, he endured lots of ridicule, knowing that he was the first and only shot for blacks playing in the Negro league.



Muhammad Ali, floating, stinging, punching and prophesying. He transformed his sport and became the world's most adored athlete.



As an African American, Jesse Owens won four Olympic medals. He dramatically foiled Adolf Hitler's intention to use Olympic games to show Aryan superiority.

Photos courtesy of the internet.

RBW

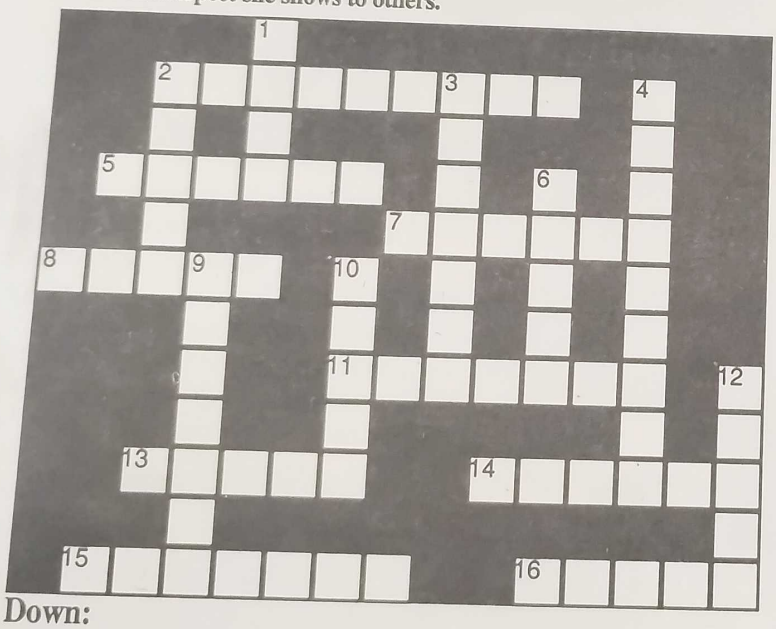
Amy's Antics

Februar

Crossword: African Americans of Character

Across:

2. Traits such as caring, courage, respect, and responsibility are all a part of what we call good _____.
5. Baseball star _____ Robinson battled racism to become the first black to play on a Major League team.
7. Poet Gwendolyn _____ wrote about the magic she saw in everyday life.
8. Through hard work and service to others, Colin Powell became the first African-American Secretary of _____.
11. Dr. Charles R. Drew was responsible for saving many lives by finding better ways to store_____.
13. Dorie Miller won fame for his great courage the attack on _____ Harbor.
14, Through her determination, Marian Anderson became a world-famous _____ who helped pave the way for other black artists.
15. Mary McLeod Bethune cared so much about education that she started a small school that grew into a _____.
16. Talk show host _____ Winfrey is respected as much for her talents as for the respect she shows to others.



Down:

1. Maggie Lena Walker showed great responsibility as the founder and president of an African American _____.
2. Ms. _____ Hale cared for hundreds of children throughout her life.
3. Supreme Court Justice _____ Marshall always tried to be fair.
4. Jazz musician Louis _____ was beloved for his great smile and good nature.
5. George Washington William's caring led him to start one of the first human rights movements in the _____.
. Fannie Lou Hamer and Mary Church _____ both fought with ourage and determination to help African Americans be able to vote.
). Dr. Ralph Bunche won the _____ Peace Prize for helping untries work out their disagreement fairly.
. Trustworthy explorer Matthew Henson was one of the first men to nd on the _____ Pole.

Pisces♥♥♥♥

Pisces ,also known as "the fish," is the astrological sign for those whose birthdays fall between February 20 and March 20. Pisces tend to be imaginative, sensitive, compassionate, kind, selfless, unworldly, intuitive and sympathetic. They also can be escapist, idealistic, secretive, vague, weak-willed and easily led astray. Pisces like dreaming, mystery, and getting lost. They like to discard unnecessary trinkets, and the enjoy ridiculous humor. Pisces dislike obvious statements, criticism, know-it-alls, and pedantry.
For more information: http://www.astrology-online.com.html

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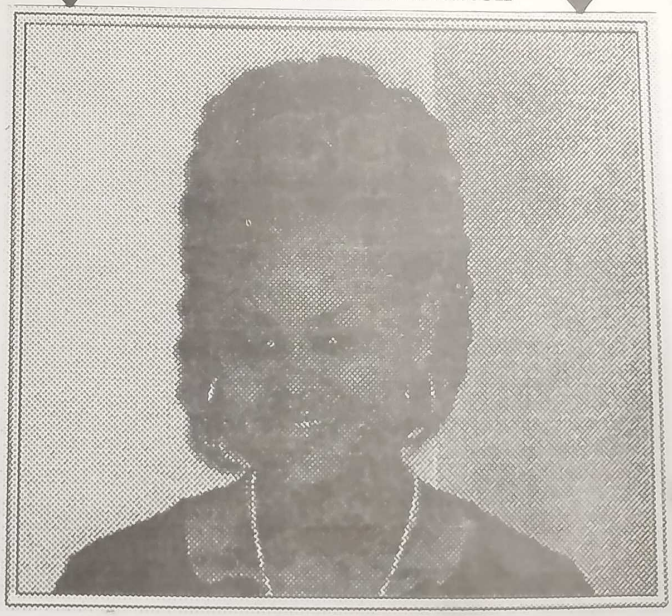
♥ *1 hug*
♥♥ *2 kisses*
♥♥♥ *3 compliments*

RedBird random award of the month

Best Outfit

Winner: Joanna Bratton